

Jubo Dal men scuffle over Gaibandha rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gaibandha

Two factions of Gaibandha Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal locked in a scuffle over a protest rally in the town yesterday.

Demanding withdrawal of a false case against Jubo Dal central leaders -- president Saiful Islam Nirob and general secretary Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Jamirul Islam Khandker, president of Gaibandha Sadar Jubo Dal unit, along with party men held a protest rally in the town.

When they reached near district BNP office, another faction, led by Mahmudunnabi Rithu, convener of district Jubo Dal, tried to resist the programme. Later, both groups locked in a scuffle. Police brought the situation under control.

Elephants kill indigenous farmer

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sherpur

An indigenous farmer was killed by a herd of wild elephants in Kangsha union under the district yesterday.

Victim Poloresh, 57, was son of late Ronen Marak of the village.

The wild elephants destroyed a potato farm of the victim and attacked the villagers when they tried to chase away the herd.

Including Poloresh, two people have been killed by elephants in the area this year, locals said.

Former chairman of Kangsha Union Parishad Md Anarullah said solar power fencing was erected to save people from attack by wild elephants in the area, but the batteries became inoperative within four months.



The ground of Kharua Barail High School in Mymensingh's Gafargaon upazila remains under water half of the year. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

School waterlogged half of the year!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The playground of a school in Gafargaon upazila remains under rainwater for almost half of the year, creating sufferings for the students.

Kharua Barail High School, with primary section, was established in 1952 on 92 decimals of land. It has around 1,200 students at present.

The school ground remains submerged due to rainwater from May to October every year. The situation has been prevailing since 2006 due to unplanned construction of houses around the school, which prevents drainage of the water," headmaster Bina Debnath said.

The school ground is the only open space in the area for the students as well as children of adjacent villages to play in, she said.

Bina said she requested the authorities concerned several times to solve

the problem, but no action has been taken yet.

Waterlogging occurs even after slight rain and continues for months, said school managing committee president Sadiqur Rahman Sujon.

Due to waterlogging for almost half of the year, we cannot even move freely on the compound, said students Shihab, Arafat, Siam and Jahangir.

The football teams of both girls and boys have a good reputation at the upazila level and they are also showing good performance in other games like cricket, the headmaster said.

This year's inter-school football tournament has begun and the girls had to practise at an abandoned field near the school, she added.

Lamenting the prevailing situation, Riya, captain of the girls' team, said they could prepare properly if their

ground was fit.

Riya and her team members demanded immediate solution to the problem.

Upazila Secondary Education Officer Belayet Hossain said he along with Upazila Nirhabhi Officer Dr Shamim Rahman, Upazila Engineer Tofazzal Hossain and Rawna Union Parishad Chairman Shahabul Alam visited the school last week.

They are planning to drain out the stagnant water from the school ground, Belayet said, adding that the problem was created as there is no drainage system to pump out the water. "The problem will be solved on an emergency basis," he said.

The football and cricket teams of the school show good performance every year and the players should be given proper facilities for practising round the year, Belayet said.

Finally Robidas gets back land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

In the end, a Hindu family in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila got their land back, thanks to the villagers who extended their helping hand to save the family from the clutches of the grabbers.

During the occasion, union parishad (UP) members, local political leaders, elite people of the society, local people and the alleged land grabber were present on the spot.

Victim Dhaneshwar Chandra, 46, of Kalmati village, one Alam Hossain, 48, and his men grabbed their 23 decimals of land in March 2013.

"I went to the doors of public representatives, local political leaders and influential people who failed to help me then as they did not get any response from the grabbers," Dhaneshwar said.

"Now we are happy as local people extended their helping hands together and helped us to get our land back," he said.

Alam Hossain, the alleged land grabber, said finally he realised that Dhaneshwar and his family are the genuine owners of the land and he cannot ignore the villagers' decision.

Ashraf Ali, 68, a resident of the village, said Dhaneshwar is the real owner of the land but Alam and his men grabbed the land saying it was his ancestral property.

"We verified all the documents with the help of officials of local land registry office and took the decision," Ashraf added.

Fodder crisis now their latest sorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Acute fodder crisis in four upazilas of the district adds to the worry of flood-affected cattle owners.

"As the grass or straw are not available, we are compelled to feed the cattle water hyacinth that causes intestinal disease," said Hasmat Ali of

Kalasonar char in Fulchhari upazila.

At present it costs Tk 300 to 400 per hundred bundles of straw, which is beyond the purchasing capacity of flood-hit people. Moreover no grass is available in char land, as all went under mud and sand during flood, he added.

This time total 22 unions of

Sundarganj, Gaibandha Sadar, Fulchhari and Saghata upazilas remained under floodwater for nearly 12 days. Many of the marooned people in char land took shelter on nearby flood control embankment.

Although we had received rice and dry food from the government, it was difficult to arrange fodder for the cattle. Due to the crisis, the animals turned skinny for not getting adequate food, said Mamtaz Ali of Kalasonar char.

"As I could not arrange fodder for my two cows due to acute crisis, I was compelled to sell one of them at low price," said Chandu Sheikh of Golna village in Fulchhari upazila.

Flood affected cattle owners urged the government to supply fodder for the survival of the cattle.

With the recession of floodwater, cattle diseases are spreading in the flood affected areas.

At least seven medical teams are working in the upazilas to prevent outbreak of cattle diseases, said Dr Abdul Latif, district livestock officer.

One lakh 19 thousand cattle have been affected due to the recent flooding in 22 unions of the upazilas, he said.

BSF detains Bangladeshi

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) detained a Bangladeshi national from bordering Sapahar upazila in Naogaon early yesterday.

The arrestee, Abdus Salam Babu, 30, son of Rahmat Ali, is a resident of Boldiaghata village in the upazila.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) officials in Sapahar said a patrol team of BSF 60 Battalion caught Salam in Adaganga area while a group of cattle traders were returning to the country with Indian cattle in the early hours.

The other members of the group, however, managed to avoid arrest and returned home.

Lt Col Khijir Khan, commanding officer (CO) of BGB 14 Battalion, said they have urged their Indian counterparts to return the Bangladeshi national through a flag meeting but got no response.

With the latest arrest, the number of detainees now stands at nine in the last 10 days, the CO said.

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Cattle facing acute fodder crisis have been taken for shelter on a flood control dyke at Katkir Haat in Fulchhari upazila of Gaibandha.

PHOTO: STAR

17 BNP men get bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted bail to 17 leaders and activists of Tangail district unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in connection with a case filed under Anti Terrorism Act.

The accused include Shamsul Alam Tofa, president of the district unit BNP, and its general secretary Farhad Iqbal.

An HC bench comprising Justice Mohammad Miftah Uddin Chowdhury and Justice ANM Bashir Ullah granted them anticipatory bail till submissions of police reports against them.

On July 23, a clash took place between two factions of local BNP during a programme in the town organised by the district unit of BNP.

At least 10 people, including two policemen, were injured in the incident.

Police later detained eight BNP activists from the spot and recovered 12 machetes from their possession.

The following day, Sub-Inspector Al Mamun of Sadar Model Police Station filed a case against 26 people, including the eight detainees. The arrestees were later produced before a court that sent them to jail.

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